

Fisher's Tavern

Reisterstown, Maryland

Private Access

26 MAIN STREET is among the oldest structures in Reisterstown, its substantial brick walls, Flemish bond front and belt course indicating sophistication. It has been identified in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records.

MARYLAND HISTORICAL TRUST

BA 895
MAGI #0308955226

INVENTORY FORM FOR STATE HISTORIC SITES SURVEY

1 NAME

HISTORIC **Fisher's Tavern**

AND/OR COMMON
Look T.V. Shop

2 LOCATION

STREET & NUMBER
26 Main Street

6th

CITY, TOWN
Reisterstown

___ VICINITY OF

CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
Baltimore

STATE
Maryland

COUNTY

3 CLASSIFICATION

CATEGORY

___ DISTRICT
☒ BUILDING(S)
___ STRUCTURE
___ SITE
___ OBJECT

OWNERSHIP

___ PUBLIC
☒ PRIVATE
___ BOTH

PUBLIC ACQUISITION

___ IN PROCESS
___ BEING CONSIDERED

STATUS

☒ OCCUPIED
___ UNOCCUPIED
___ WORK IN PROGRESS
ACCESSIBLE
☒ YES: RESTRICTED
___ YES: UNRESTRICTED
___ NO

PRESENT USE

___ AGRICULTURE
☒ COMMERCIAL
___ EDUCATIONAL
___ ENTERTAINMENT
___ GOVERNMENT
___ INDUSTRIAL
___ MILITARY
___ MUSEUM
___ PARK
___ PRIVATE RESIDENCE
___ RELIGIOUS
___ SCIENTIFIC
___ TRANSPORTATION
___ OTHER

4 OWNER OF PROPERTY

NAME **Allen M. Brooks**

Telephone #: **486-8800**

STREET & NUMBER
3414 Midfield Rd

CITY, TOWN
Baltimore

___ VICINITY OF

STATE, zip code
Md 21208

5 LOCATION OF LEGAL DESCRIPTION

COURTHOUSE,
REGISTRY OF DEEDS, ETC. **Baltimore County**

Liber #: **4878**

Folio #: **12?**

STREET & NUMBER
Towson

CITY, TOWN
Maryland

STATE

6 REPRESENTATION IN EXISTING SURVEYS

TITLE

DATE

___ FEDERAL ___ STATE ___ COUNTY ___ LOCAL

DEPOSITORY FOR
SURVEY RECORDS

CITY, TOWN

STATE

7 DESCRIPTION

CONDITION

☐ EXCELLENT
☒ GOOD
☐ FAIR

☐ DETERIORATED
☐ RUINS
☐ UNEXPOSED

CHECK ONE

☒ UNALTERED
☐ ALTERED

CHECK ONE

☒ ORIGINAL SITE
☐ MOVED DATE _____

DESCRIBE THE PRESENT AND ORIGINAL (IF KNOWN) PHYSICAL APPEARANCE

26 MAIN STREET is a two and one half storey brick structure, three bays in width oriented to the street, facing east. It appears to date from the late eighteenth century. The steeply-pitched gable roof breaks in the rear slope into a lower pitch just above a non-existent eave line but the brick south end wall has no vertical joint indicating an addition related to this break. (Another break in the roof just a few feet short of the low rear or west eave is related to a modern brick addition extending the depth of the structure)

This structure is approximately 27 feet wide across the street front, 34 feet deep excluding the modern extension at the rear. The distance from the front wall to the roof ridge is 9 feet, suggesting an original structure 18 feet deep with an early addition of another 16 feet, a suggestion not indicated in the brickwork, however. This corresponds to the structure recorded in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax as a two storey brick dwelling house 28 x 18 with one storey brick addition of 16 x 12. That addition was and is probably contemporary with the main house, not a "later addition" per se.

The first storey wall of the street front is almost entirely of modern construction containing two display windows flanking a shop entrance with a door at the extreme north end leading to the upper floor of the modern structure adjacent to the north. A remnant of the jack arch above the original northerly opening remains, four courses of $1\frac{1}{2}$ bricks high. The second storey wall is original, laid in Flemish bond and a three-course belt course separates the two storeys. The belt course stops about a foot short of the southeast corner but it extends clear to the northeast corner. The south wall is common bond, every eighth course being headers. The west addition and an adjacent structure to the north covers the other two exterior walls.

Most of the front cornice is original including the soffit, beaded fascia and base and the large ovolo bedmoulding; the crown moulding is modern. The narrow beaded window frames and the louvred blinds date from the 19th century and the aluminum sash date from the 20th. A similar window is centered in the second storey in the south end and a small window is above in the attic storey. Another window is in the second storey of the rear extension containing 6/6 sash in a wide plain frame, possibly partially original.

Within, both storeys are gutted of all early materials including partitions, details and finishes. The attic is finished with old plaster but no lathing or structure is visible. In the cellar, the original hewn first floor joists are visible.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

8 SIGNIFICANCE

BA 395

PERIOD		AREAS OF SIGNIFICANCE -- CHECK AND JUSTIFY BELOW			
<input type="checkbox"/> PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-PREHISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNITY PLANNING	<input type="checkbox"/> LANDSCAPE ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> RELIGION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1400-1499	<input type="checkbox"/> ARCHEOLOGY-HISTORIC	<input type="checkbox"/> CONSERVATION	<input type="checkbox"/> LAW	<input type="checkbox"/> SCIENCE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1500-1599	<input type="checkbox"/> AGRICULTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> ECONOMICS	<input type="checkbox"/> LITERATURE	<input type="checkbox"/> SCULPTURE	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1600-1699	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> ARCHITECTURE	<input type="checkbox"/> EDUCATION	<input type="checkbox"/> MILITARY	<input type="checkbox"/> SOCIAL/HUMANITARIAN	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> 1700-1799	<input type="checkbox"/> ART	<input type="checkbox"/> ENGINEERING	<input type="checkbox"/> MUSIC	<input type="checkbox"/> THEATER	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1800-1899	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> COMMERCE	<input type="checkbox"/> EXPLORATION/SETTLEMENT	<input type="checkbox"/> PHILOSOPHY	<input type="checkbox"/> TRANSPORTATION	
<input type="checkbox"/> 1900-	<input type="checkbox"/> COMMUNICATIONS	<input type="checkbox"/> INDUSTRY	<input type="checkbox"/> POLITICS/GOVERNMENT	<input checked="" type="checkbox"/> OTHER (SPECIFY) local history	
		<input type="checkbox"/> INVENTION			

SPECIFIC DATES 1798

BUILDER/ARCHITECT

George Fisher

STATEMENT OF SIGNIFICANCE

On the west side of Reisterstown Road just below the junction of the Westminster/Hanover Roads and adjoining the present Health Center building, stands Fisher's Tavern, a white painted brick house. George Fisher's appears south of the "Widow Reister's" on the September 19, 1795 survey of the route from Reisterstown to the Pennsylvania Line (Pocket Plat No. 160 H.R.) McGrain, op cit., IV

Fisher had acquired the lot in 1792 from Peter Hahn (WG II:76) and soon added an adjoining lot to it that belonged to Turnbaugh (WG NN:474). Here he built an inn. The 1798 Tax Assessment describes it:

No. 3185. George Fisher, owner. Pt. of Chase & Spring Garden. One brick Dwelling House two story, 28 x 18, by addition of Brick one story, 16x 12. One hew'd log Kitchen one story, 16 x 12. Two acres. Valuation \$750.00.

The property remained in the Fisher family until 1851. During that time it was known as a polling place of Old District 7 in 1800 (American, Aug 23, 1800, p.3.) (McGrain, op cit., IV) The postoffice was conducted in the building from 1807-1819 because Fisher was appointed post-master. (Unidentified newspaper account, op. cit.,) In 1804, the assessment on the property was 200. When Fisher deeded the site to his wife in 1828, he called it the " brick house where a certain George Weaver now carries on a public house" in "Washington Town...formerly called Reisterstown" (WG 196/71)

An 1850 map showed George J. Fisher's Central Hotel "...a name later applied to another tavern in town(Yellow).(McGrain, op. cit., IV)

A son, George W. Fisher sold the property in 1851 to Alex R. Walters. (AWB 455/427) Walters conveyed the property to Thomas R. Haughey in 1867 (56/309)

In 1869, the site was occupied by Mr Haughey according to Dr. Dickson's account, and, by 1906, it was the site of Goodwin's Livery Stable. Actually the 1898 Bromley Atlas shows the site to be F.P.Goodwin's. Photographs of this building in Reisterstown by Carol Pollack (1976) identify it as the original Fisher home and tavern; F.P.Goodwin home. In the Maryland Monthly Magazine, August 1906, p. 9 it states: "(F.P.Goodwin) converted it to a residence and built extensive livery stables which cover the grounds."

Heirs of Goodwin eventually sold the property in 1913 to John W. Devese (WPC 407/350) The Atlas of 1915 shows it to be Devese property.

Devese sold it to Wilmer Caltrider and wife Rosebelle (WPC569/334) in 1923. It is not surprising that the Caltriders operated a garage on the site of the livery stables. They apparently defaulted on the mortgage payments and the property was ordered sold at auction.(Judicial Liber LMcLM 341/117ff) This was 1929. Arthur Bosley purchased it.

Bosley sold it to Corbin Cogswell in 1931 (LMcLM 869/567-8) The same year it sold to George Ament and wife (LMcLM 882/233) The Aments sold the property ten years later to the current owners. (CWB,Jr 1142/513)

This is one of the oldest structures in Reisterstown, its substantial brick walls, Flemish bond front and belt course indicating sophistication. It has been identified in the 1798 Federal Direct Tax records.

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

9 MAJOR BIBLIOGRAPHICAL REFERENCES Federal Direct Assessment of 1798
Soldier's Delight Hundred

Lillian B. Marks, Reisters Desire (Baltimore, 1975)
 Carol Pollack, Reisterstown, 1976 (Reisterstown, Optimist Club, 1976)
 "Taverns" Maryland Monthly Magazine August, 1906 (Reisterstown, 1906-7)
 John McGrain Industrial-Archaeological Survey of NW Transp. Corridor (B. Co, 1975)
 Land Records and Judicial Records, Baltimore County Courthouse, Towson, Md

CONTINUE ON SEPARATE SHEET IF NECESSARY

10 GEOGRAPHICAL DATAACREAGE OF NOMINATED PROPERTY .55 acres

VERBAL BOUNDARY DESCRIPTION

LIST ALL STATES AND COUNTIES FOR PROPERTIES OVERLAPPING STATE OR COUNTY BOUNDARIES

STATE

COUNTY

STATE

COUNTY

11 FORM PREPARED BY Anne Dasch, Volunteer Researcher

NAME / TITLE

James T. Wollon, Jr A.I.A.

Cornelia M. Ives, Project Coordinator

August 1978

ORGANIZATION

DATE

Historic Reisterstown, Inc

STREET & NUMBER

TELEPHONE

430 Main St

833-3078 (Ms Ives)

CITY OR TOWN

STATE

Reisterstown, Md

The Maryland Historic Sites Inventory was officially created by an Act of the Maryland Legislature, to be found in the Annotated Code of Maryland, Article 41, Section 181 KA, 1974 Supplement.

The Survey and Inventory are being prepared for information and record purposes only and do not constitute any infringement of individual property rights.

RETURN TO: Maryland Historical Trust
 The Shaw House, 21 State Circle
 Annapolis, Maryland 21401
 (301) 267-1438



BA 895

Fisher's Tavern

26 Main St - Reist Md

Robert Dasch

8-78

East